

LACK OF VERDICTS HUMPS FIGHTERS

Clever Ring Performers Not
Inclined to Exertion if Rep-
utations Do Not Suffer.

LIGHT TAPS POPULAR
Frawley Enactment Responsible
for Flood of No Decision
Laws in This Country.

By CHARLES F. MATHISON.

The indefinite suspension of Augie Fawcett and Jack Malone by the Michigan Boxing Commission on a charge of not contesting on their merits once again accentuates the stupidity of those responsible for decisionless bouts. Malone and Fawcett are two of the cleverest boxers in the middleweight class, and the St. Paul boxer looks like the next champion of the division.

Both Fawcett and Malone are clever enough to box with apparent vigor and still do no special damage to each other. Therefore they must have shown much indifference to have aroused the indignation of Michigan ring patrons.

Yet it is the law that is at fault, and so long as the decisionless rule remains on the statute books just that length of time will boxing officials be called upon to penalize boxers for not putting forth their best efforts in the ring.

It is asking too much of weak human nature to put two good boxers in a bout in which the winner will not be officially named and expect them to try for a knockout. The fighters are aware that if the bout lasts the limit the result will be entered in the records under the heading of "N. D." (no decision) and that the reputation of either will suffer in consequence. The lack of a decision enables each to claim the victory, and having collected money that they have not earned they can gleefully move on to other decisionless pastures. Thus the people who pay to see the bout are defrauded, the club promoter pays for services that were not rendered and the boxing officials are compelled to take disciplinary action.

When Malone and Fawcett are engaged in a club where decisions are made on points at the end of a bout

there is no lack of effort on their part. Although neither is a knockout hitter yet they fight for every point during a contest and few are the adverse verdicts recorded against them.

There has been much clamor against decisionless bouts by judges in New York State, but the effect of the Walker law has been salutary. No man who enters the ring carries in advance an official decision against him, and the result is that nearly every bout is contested on its merits. Decisionless bouts are an unwholesome and the comparatively few unjust decisions in this State amount to but a drop in a bucket.

The decisionless bout had its origin in the "club membership" days following the repeal of the Horton law. During the Horton law regime the referee decided all contests that lasted the scheduled limit. When the Horton law was repealed the club membership scheme sprang into existence. Under this plan "members" paid "club dues" in advance of a bout, and no admission fee was collected at the doors. For some inscrutable reason it was decided by the promoters not to have decisions, and the only way in which a boxer could win a bout was by knockout or foul. The result was a dreary succession of contests in which honest boxing was conspicuous by its absence. It was during the club membership period that Jim Driscoll, featherweight champion of Europe, proved he was the best man in the class in the world, when he drubbed Abe Attell, American featherweight champion, in a ten round decisionless bout in what is now the Pioneer Sporting Club. Had an official decision been possible Driscoll would have returned to England as the world featherweight champion. Driscoll claimed the honor but was deprived of the distinction because of the stupid rule against decisions.

No Decrease in Betting.

When the Frawley law was enacted, a decisionless clause was included, the argument being advanced that it would lessen betting on bouts. It is questionable if there ever was more betting on boxing bouts than during the life of the Frawley law. In addition, there never was a greater number of disappointing bouts in which there was deliberate cheating by the contestants. The eye of the decisionless rule did not stop at the borders of New York State. The boxing laws of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and New Jersey were patterned after the Frawley law, and those States have become the happy hunting grounds of those boxers who are adept at going through with the motions of fighting, but fail to even disarrange an opponent's hair. Not all decisionless rules are completely eliminated, will there be honest boxing throughout the country.

Decisionless rules are given in England, France, Australia and in fact in all foreign countries where boxing flourishes, but New York, Massachusetts and Louisiana are the only States with laws providing for decisionless bouts. Decisions are given in several other States which enjoy local option, but non-decisions are the rule. If the National Boxing Association desires to perform a great service for boxing it should induce the decisionless States in its membership roll to change the rule.

When Malone and Fawcett are engaged in a club where decisions are made on points at the end of a bout

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Studebaker, 1921 Big Six, 7-pass. Touring; repainted dark maroon with gold stripes; 5 new tires, bumper, tonneau windshield, beautiful family car.

Studebaker, 1922 Big Six Sedan, run 5,000 miles; equipped with bumper, mirrors, one.

Studebaker, 1922 Light Six, 5-pass.; equipped with 5 practically new tires, 3 bumpers, mirrors, one.

Studebaker, 1920 Big Six Touring, 7-pass.; repainted dark green; equipped with bumper, mirrors, tonneau windshield, 5 good tires, new set of tools.

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